



# House of Representatives

## File No. 798

General Assembly

January Session, 2003

**(Reprint of File No. 469)**

House Bill No. 5660  
As Amended by House  
Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 31, 2003

### **AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC ACCESS TO BUILDING CONSTRUCTION PLANS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (e) of section 29-261 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2003*):

4 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of the Freedom of Information  
5 Act, as defined in section 1-200, or the State Building Code, [to the  
6 contrary,] upon receipt of a written request signed by the owner of  
7 plans and specifications on file for a single-family dwelling or out-  
8 building, the building official shall [return plans and specifications on  
9 file at the time of the request for the issuance of a certificate of  
10 occupancy for any single-family dwelling or out-building to the owner  
11 of such dwelling or building no earlier than two years after the  
12 issuance of the certificate of occupancy] immediately return the  
13 original plans and specifications to the owner after a certificate of  
14 occupancy is issued with respect to the plans and specifications.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation:**

House "A" has no fiscal impact because under current law, building plans and specifications can already be returned to owners.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

HB 5660 (as amended by House "A")\*

**AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC ACCESS TO BUILDING CONSTRUCTION PLANS****SUMMARY:**

By law, building officials must return original plans and specifications for the construction or alteration of single-family dwellings or outbuildings after issuing a certificate of specification to homeowners who submit a written request. This bill requires the officials to return them immediately, rather than wait for at least two years after the request to return them.

By law, a building permit is required for most construction (and major alterations), other than the construction of certain state buildings. Under current law, these plans are public records while in the possession of the building official and subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

\*House Amendment "A" replaces the original bill, which limited the people with access to plans for alteration or construction of single-family dwellings.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 16      Nay 3